Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan where Guru Nanak Devji spent last days of his life before passing away and which is located only 2.5 km away from Indo-Pak border; and

(b) If so, whether Government propose to take up with Pak Government, the request for opening of link road (Galiyara) without any restrictions from either country, made by whole Sikh community/devotees from all over the world as well as SGPC Amritsar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal before Government at present. However, Government have proposed to Pakistan the inclusion of Kartarpur Sahib in the list of shrines under the bilateral 'Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines-1974'.

Surrender of Maoists

†3251. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHIR RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news published in the major newspapers of India on 20th November, 2005 wherein it has been reported that the Maoists of Nepal have accepted to surrender weapons under United Nations Organisation;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the said decision of the Maoists have come during the dialogue held with the political parties of Nepal in India; and

(c) if not, the facts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNALAFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The Government have seen reports in the media during the third week of Novermber, 2005 relating to a "Letter of Understanding" arrived at between a seven party alliance of parliamentary parties and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoists). The "Letter of Understanding" was released to the media separately by the political parties and the Communist party of Nepal (Maoists) on 22nd November 2005. The "Letter of Understanding" consists of 12 points, of which unofficial translation of point no. 3 is as follows:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

"Today, the country has demanded the establishment of permanent peace along with a positive solution to the armed conflict. Therefore, we are committed to ending autocratic monarchy and the existing armed conflict, and establishing permanent peace in the country through constituent assembly elections and forward-looking political outlet. The CPN (Maoists) expresses its commitment to move along the new peaceful political stream through this process. In this very context, an understanding has been reached to keep, during the holding of constituent assembly elections after ending autocratic monarchy, the armed Maoist force and the royal army under the supervision of the United Nations or any other reliable international supervision, to conclude the elections in a free and fair manner and accept the result of the elections. We expect reliable international mediation even during the dialogue process."

Government have seen reports indicating that some political parties of Nepal have been engaged in an ongoing dialogue with the CPN, (Maoists) prior to the announcement of the "Letter of Understanding" between them.

Assistance to Indian Civil Nuclear Programme

†3252. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of countries have given assurance to extend full assistance to India in its civil nuclear programme;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made by Government, so far, in the civil nuclear programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has placed considerable importance on nuclear energy in its energy mix, as it provides a clean source of energy. In this context, the Government is engaged in a dialogue with a broad range of countries including with the US, Russia and France and they have agreed on the need to have full international civilian nuclear cooperation with India. These discussions are ongoing.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.